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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

May 18, 1995



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Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, Northwest  
Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In re: **GC Docket No. 95-21, In the Matter of Amendment of 47  
C.F.R. § 1.1200 et seq. Concerning Ex Parte Presentations  
in Commission Proceedings; Memorandum of Oral Ex  
Parte Presentation**

Dear Mr. Caton:

The Federal Communications Bar Association, by its undersigned representative and in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(a)(2) (1994), hereby respectfully submits for inclusion in the record of the above-referenced proceeding an original and one copy of a memorandum summarizing an oral ex parte presentation made to Commissioner Susan Ness and members of her staff in the subject proceeding on this date.

Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

John Griffith Johnson, Jr.  
Chair, Ex Parte Rules Committee  
Federal Communications Bar Association  
c/o Bryan Cave  
700 Thirteenth Street, Northwest  
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Washington, D.C. 20005-3960  
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**Mr. William F. Caton**  
**May 18, 1995**  
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**Enclosure (x 2)**

**cc: Hon. Susan Ness, with enclosure (by hand delivery)**  
**James L. Casserly, Esq., with enclosure (by hand delivery)**  
**David R. Siddall, Esq., with enclosure (by hand delivery)**

**William E. Kennard, Esq., with enclosure (by hand delivery)**  
**David S. Senzel, Esq., with enclosure (by hand delivery)**

**Memorandum of Oral Ex Parte Presentation in GC Docket No. 95-21**

**May 18, 1995**

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**Present for the Federal Communications Commission:**  
**Hon. Susan Ness, Commissioner**  
**James L. Casserly, Esq., Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ness**  
**David R. Siddall, Esq., Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ness**

**MAY 18 1995**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**

**Present for the Federal Communications Bar Association:**  
**S. White Rhyne, Esq., FCBA President**  
**Arthur B. Goodkind, Esq., Member, FCBA Executive Committee**  
**John Griffith Johnson, Jr., Esq., Chair, FCBA Ex Parte Rules Committee**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION**

**The FCBA opposes the Commission's proposal to extend to adjudicatory and quasi-adjudicatory proceedings the so-called "permit-but-disclose" procedures for making ex parte presentations to Commission decision-making personnel.**

● **Near Unanimity of FCBA Members' Opposition to the FCC's Proposal:**

**Notwithstanding the diversity of FCBA members' backgrounds, practice areas, and law-firm settings, virtually every member who made his or her views known to us on this subject opposed the FCC's proposal.**

● **Perception of the Fairness of the FCC's Decision-Making:**

**In adjudicatory matters, it is unheard of for a tribunal to entertain ex parte presentations in contested cases, except in extraordinary situations.**

**Perceptions of inequality of access to FCC decision-making personnel among different constituents of the regulated industries and their representatives.**

**An historical perspective -- remembering the 1950's and early 1960's.**

● **Efficiency in the Dispatch of the FCC's Business:**

**Litigants' strategies, and not the rules governing authorized pleading cycles, will determine the number and the timing of merits-oriented submissions.**

**Expansion of the record by virtue of the inclusion of post-pleading-cycle written ex parte presentations and memoranda of oral ex parte presentations.**

**Increased demands upon the time of FCC decision-makers to respond to requests for meetings from interested parties, to meet with such parties, and to ensure that the permit-but-disclose rules are followed.**

**Burdening cases with collateral disputes over adversaries' compliance with permit-but-disclose rules (e.g., the adequacy of the disclosure in memoranda of oral presentations, timing of the submission of such memoranda, regularity of the filing of copies of memoranda in the record by the FCC's clerical staff).**